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(b) each decision unit generates a value representative of
selected data value and the partial address of the selected data
value and the decision unit of the last computation stage
contains the specific value, wherein each of the plurality of
decision units comprises:



- (i) a binary operator for generating a binary decision representative of a local address of the selected data value,
- (ii) a multiplexer coupled to the binary operator for generating one of the pair of input values as output and with the output being selected by the binary decision, and
- (iii) a storage element coupled to the binary operator and the multiplexer for storing the output of the multiplexer and the binary decision which is added to the partial address of the selected data value.



- 1 3. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the binary
- 2 operator selects the minimum value of the pair of data values
- 3 contained in the pair of input values.